



# Lancaster Farming

## OPINION

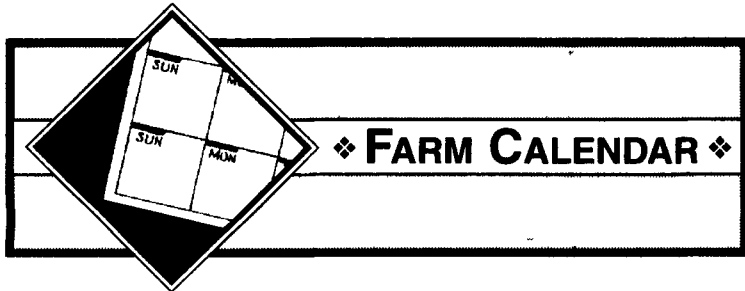
### Advantages At Home

The retail out-of-store price for a gallon of milk in Chicago area supermarkets is at a record high of \$3.69, according to a recent article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal. The same article notes that in supermarkets across the nation the average price of a gallon of milk fell by 6 percent or 18 cents per gallon, while at the same time, the price paid to dairy farmers dropped almost 26 percent or 44 cents per gallon since January 1999.

But this is not true in Pennsylvania, thanks to our system that includes the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board. The average price for a gallon of whole milk sold in Pennsylvania during July 2000 was \$2.67. This price includes the mandatory over-order premium paid to Pennsylvania dairy farmers of \$1.25 per one hundred pounds of milk. This equates to 11 cents per gallon. Since January 1999 the average retail price in Pennsylvania for a gallon of whole milk dropped by 31 cents as compared to the 34 cents per gallon price drop to the dairy farmer.

Pennsylvania, through the efforts of the Milk Marketing Board, establishes the minimum price that a Pennsylvania retail store can charge to its customers. This retail price is based on the price that is paid to the dairy farmer. When there is a change in the price paid to the Pennsylvania dairy farmer, the change is reflected in the minimum retail price the following month. Although the Milk Marketing Board has the authority to establish maximum retail out-of-store prices, it has not found it necessary to do so, since most grocery stores sell at the minimum price.

This ability to adjust the retail price of milk each month based on fluctuating producer prices greatly benefits Pennsylvania consumers. And dairy farmers may want to consider the advantages of producing milk in Pennsylvania before heading of to the Midwest.



### ❖ FARM CALENDAR ❖

**Saturday, August 26**  
Allentown Fair, thru Sept. 4.

**Sunday, August 27**  
Indiana County Fair, thru Sept. 2.  
West End Fair, thru Sept. 2.

**Monday, August 28**

**Tuesday, August 29**  
Centre County Holstein Show, Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, 1 p.m.  
Big Knob Grange Fair, thru Sept. 2.  
Greene-Dreher-Sterling Fair, thru Sept. 4.  
Twilight Meeting, Northumber-

land County Conservation District, Mark Masser Farm, 6 p.m.

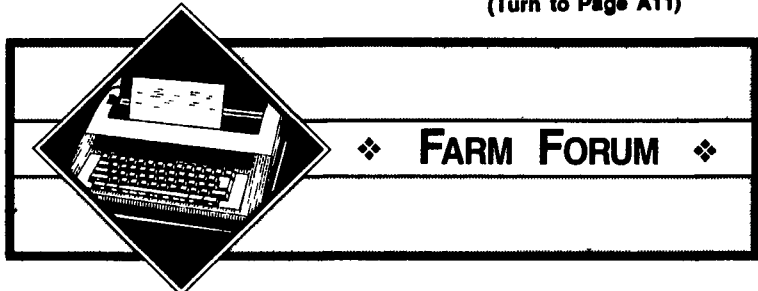
**Wednesday, August 30**  
Kiwanis Wyoming County Fair, thru Sept. 4.  
Stoneboro Fair, thru Sept. 4.  
Sullivan County Fair, thru Sept. 4.

**Thursday, August 31**  
Pasture Walk, Spurgeon Shilling Farm, New Bethlehem, 7 p.m.

**Friday, September 1**

**Saturday, September 2**  
Lehigh County 4-H Livestock Roundup Sale, at the Great

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### ❖ FARM FORUM ❖

**Editor:**

In many talks about dairy pricing, the argument will be made that another part of the country or the world can produce milk cheaper than we can, so, therefore, if we cannot make milk as cheap as some other part of the country or world, we should quietly throw in the towel and pursue other careers. Those who think that family farms should be preserved are considered naive and out of touch with the times. However, some economists now see that family farms are actually very efficient, perhaps more efficient than huge farms. Those who only look at dollar signs and sterile statistics

fail to see the importance and value that family farms have in society. They overlook the human pain, inflicted on people who are clearly taken advantage of by those who have the power and resources to do so. Farming for most is more than just another job or business opportunity. It is a way of life, and, even more, there is a deep heritage involved. Many farms that have been in a family for several generations will not be passed on to the next or are only one major set back from going out of business. Rich heritage and lifetimes of hard work are in jeopardy because of artificially devalued farm milk

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### Now Is The Time

By John Schwartz

Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

#### To Enjoy Sweet Corn

To insure customer satisfaction and increase consumption of our commodities, it is very important to educate the consumer on how to best handle the food we produce.

The most important element in cooking corn on the cob is freshness, according to Dr. Pete Ferretti, Penn State professor of vegetable crops. Ideally, corn should be cooked soon after you buy it at a local market or pick it in your garden. After picking, corn immediately starts to convert the sugar in its kernels to starch, while also losing its aroma and nutrients.

With fresh corn, microwave

cooking gives you the best flavor, aroma, sweetness, and tenderness.

Some tips for microwave cooking are:

- Remove outer husks so only clean, thin, inner husks remain
- Wash single ear in cold water and wrap in a paper towel dipped in cold water
- Microwave each ear for about two to three minutes on high setting. Since many microwave ovens differ in wattage and heating times, try several settings under or over the three-minute mark to suit your taste.
- Using gloves or mitts, remove ears and shuck husks downward to remove husks and silk in one easy motion.

#### To Cook Sweet Corn Properly

Dr. Pete Ferretti, Penn State professor of vegetable crops, offers the following tips for two additional cooking methods for corn on the cob.

- Boiling. Bring fresh water to a rapid boil. Add three tablespoons of sugar and a teaspoon of skim milk. The milk seems to remove some minerals and enhances the color of the corn. Extra sugar helps the corn better retain its own sugars and discourages leaching into the water. Add husked ears and remove after about 7 minutes of boiling. Never add salt to the water. Salt will toughen the kernels.
- Barbecue. Soak unhusked corn in ice water for about one hour. Place on hot grill. Cover with clean, wet burlap. When outer husks become brown and brittle, check the kernels for

doneness. For barbecue preparation, you cannot predict how long to cook corn on the cob because it all depends on how hot the coals are, how far the corn is from the coals, and what type of grill you are using.

#### To Look At Ethanol

Gas prices higher than you would like to see? Corn prices are lower than corn producers like to see.

Corn and gas do fit together and the high price of one could help the low price of the other.

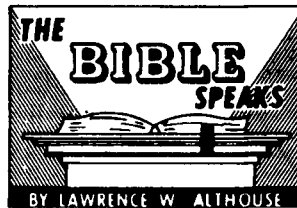
Consumers are being told by the petroleum industry the high prices are a result of new clean air standards set by EPA. According to Lynn Jensen, president of the National Corn Growers Association, this is absolutely wrong. Ethanol is both abundant and affordable. It is a lot more affordable than petroleum. Plus, it cleans up the air without polluting the water.

Ethanol boosts farm prices and stimulates rural economies. It is a renewable fuel source that can help reduce our dependence on petroleum.

When you add it all up, ethanol is not the problem — it is the answer. To find out more about ethanol, go to a new Website developed by the Missouri Corn Growers Association at [www.MadAboutGas.com](http://www.MadAboutGas.com).

For additional information about corn, visit the National Corn Growers Web page at [www.ncga.com](http://www.ncga.com).

*Feather Prof's Footnote: "Treat your friends like family and your family like friends."*



### FOR LOVE'S SAKE

**Background Scripture:** Philemon 4-21.  
**Devotional Reading:** James 2:1-13.

Although Paul's Letter to Philemon is just slightly more than a page long and contains "no explicit theological or ethical teaching," my former seminary professor, John Knox, pronounced it "one of the most interesting and illuminating documents in the New Testament, and in some ways one of the most important."

What makes it so important is that in this letter Paul not only speaks of Christian love, but he also applies it to a very specific situation. Being aware of this situation is our key to understanding the letter.

Philemon, a resident of Colossae in Phrygia (part of today's Turkey), under the influence of Paul's preaching, had become a Christian and his home now served as a meeting place for a Christian congregation. Obviously, there was a warm relationship between Paul and Philemon. Paul is presently "a prisoner for Christ Jesus," probably, although not certainly in Rome. It would appear that he was sending Tychicus to Colossae with the letter we know as Colossians, accompanied by another of Paul's associates, a former slave named Onesimus who was to personally deliver the letter to Philemon.

Nothing too exciting about that, is there? But wait — Onesimus was formerly Philemon's slave! He had escaped his master and it would seem he may have stolen something from his as well. Later, Onesimus became a Christian and one of Paul's trust-

ed associates, especially during his imprisonment.

It is difficult for us today to appreciate the seriousness of this situation. In the Roman empire a runaway slave was usually summarily dealt with and it would be quite legal for Philemon to take Onesimus's life.

#### Taking A Risk?

So, if Paul had found Onesimus so "useful" (a pun: Onesimus's name means "useful"), why would he send the former slave back to his master?

Paul could have kept him with him, but he wanted Philemon and Onesimus to be reconciled, not as master and slave, but as Christian brothers, so that Philemon could willingly send him back to Paul.

There is the potential for a power struggle: Roman law vs. Christian gospel. Legally, Onesimus still belonged to Philemon. As an apostle, Paul could have commanded Philemon to release him.

Paul, however, did not want to settle it that way. "But I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will." Paul would not compel Philemon, but he would do his utmost to convince him. That is what this letter is all about: Paul attempting to convince Philemon to accept Onesimus as a Christian brother and give up his legal rights as Onesimus's master.

Wasn't Paul taking a tremendous risk, not only of losing Onesimus at a time when he needed him so greatly, but of sending him to his possible re-enslavement or even death? Yes, there was some risk, but Paul did not think he was gambling with the life or freedom of Onesimus because he knew Philemon was more likely to be persuaded by the gospel than by Roman law.

Philemon's Christian love is well known to Paul, and he says "I have derived much joy and

comfort from your love." So, he appeals to Philemon "for love's sake" (v. 9).

The love of Jesus Christ is superior to the justice of the law, and it is preferable even to the command of an apostle as well.

#### Even More

Paul made it very hard for Philemon to turn him down. He stresses his closeness to Onesimus "whose father I have become in my imprisonment."

Out of love for both Onesimus and Philemon, Paul was making a sacrifice: "I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart." He appeals to his personal relationship with Philemon: "So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account." If Philemon loves Paul, he will "refresh my heart in Christ." And to cap his appeal, Paul says, "... knowing that you will do even more than I say."

Although this is a personal letter addressed to one single person, in a sense Paul is writing to the whole Christian community, including us: "... yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal you."

(Note: In the second century the bishop of Ephesus was named Onesimus. He was likely in Ephesus when a collection of Paul's letters was published there, probably under his oversight. Some scholars believe this Onesimus was the former slave of Philemon.)

### Lancaster Farming

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